

VIPER FORWARD



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TASK FORCE COMMANDER

LTC BAZZINOTTI



Hope springs eternal and that is the mood here in Iraq as we enter into the beginnings of the spring solstice. The cold mornings and wet winter evenings are all but a memory. The Vipers are doing magnificent! Hours of sunlight are noticeably increasing each day now and soon, all too soon, we will start feeling the warm weather we all know is coming. In the meantime, we have a lot to look forward to and a lot to be grateful for as we move this operation forward each and every day.

Springtime brings the usual pattern of activity that gives our lives a familiar context. Baseball pre-season, the March Madness of college basketball, shamrocks and lighter, more colorful wardrobes all help us mark the passing of time while giving us a hopeful attitude as we anticipate the opportunities of a new season. In a similar way, all of us here look forward with a sense of hope as the newly formed Iraqi government begins to take shape this season. It should come as no surprise that the new political entities continue to develop in an environment of controversy and conflict as they wrestle and wrangle with the complexities of democracy, ethnicity, and tradition. Although the turmoil and tensions of last month brought a sense of concern and disappointment, the Iraqi Security Forces again managed to come together as they quickly restored public order in Baghdad. I could not be prouder of their commitment, hard work, and their courage.



Despite a fast-paced operation that continues to expand, we continue to find the time for fellowship, celebration, and just plain fun. The heroes of the 204TH MP CO and 988TH MP CO along with the superstars of Service Battery, 127th Field Artillery



were all awarded the 49th MP Brigade combat patch in three separate ceremonies. Truly, the mark of experience. The 258th GATORs turned our tactical briefing room into the Bourbon Street Extension as they treated the task force to a Mardi Gras celebration extravaganza with some great gumbo, king cake, and enough colorful costumes and party materials to compete with New Orleans finest. A big Thank You to all the Family Readiness Group members who made it all possible. Our chaplain (CPT) Keough (aka Snake-Handler) conducted a wonderful Prayer Breakfast early in the month with great food, fellowship, live music, and a thoughtful prayer message. Great work, Padre! The troopers of 163RD Field Artillery Regiment won the Combat Crew Competition as they demonstrated the best weapons, vehicle, and radio skills in the task force. Hooah, guys!

As the days get longer and the temperatures increase, our longing for home, friends, and family gets stronger. The positive energy and emotion you send our guys and gals each day in the form of thought, prayer, and correspon-

dence continue to embrace and strengthen our resolve to move this operation forward so that we can return to all of you and the fullness and opportunity that our great nation offers. Be-

ware the Ides of March and have a Happy St. Patrick Day.

VIPER 6

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Task Force 519TH Military Police



Command Sergeant Major

Once again it is Newsletter time. The days of February passed quickly and the month was over before we realized it. I attribute the swift passing of time to staying very busy focusing on our mission. The media has reported most of what is happening here in Iraq. Based on those reports, I know that there was some initial concern about the effectiveness of the Iraqi Police. However, those concerns were quickly put to rest as the Iraqi Police went to work and continued to maintain security throughout the country. The success of the Iraqi Police is a testament to the hard work that all of our Soldiers are doing here daily. It shows that we are making progress.

We took a little time out to celebrate a few occasions this month. We started off with Groundhog Day. There is still quite a bit of debate on whether Phil saw his shadow or not. I'm not sure if he did or did not, but in a few more weeks it will not matter. It will be so hot we will wish that winter was still around. By next month we will be in the high 90s and the temperature will continue to climb to the 140s by July. We had our Super Bowl Party and watched Seattle get robbed of the championship. It is hard to beat the



other team and the referees! HHD hosted a Valentines Day Party where we all remembered just how much we miss all of you. And finally, we had a Mardi Gras Party to celebrate the traditions of our Battalion's home State of Louisiana. There were masks, beads and plenty of fun and food. It was a great time, but probably not as fun as the real party in New Orleans. Next month we will celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. I'm not sure, but I think I see some green near beer in our future.

Each week, all of our units submit one Soldier for recognition as the Hero of the Week for demonstrating exceptional bravery, courage and skill. And each month, the units submit one Soldier as their Sustainer of the Month for going above and beyond the call of duty. One of these warriors is selected as the Task Force Hero of the Week and one is selected as the Task Force Sustainer of the Month. It is extremely difficult to pick just one Soldier out of this Task Force for each of these honors. Every single one of the young men and women in our unit are heroes for the sacrifices that they are making here in Iraq. The heroes and the sustainer in the box below represent the best of the best that our Task Force has to offer for this past Month. I am proud to serve with each of them.

I want to highlight some of our Soldiers and their personal achievements. In a couple of weeks our Task Force NCO and Soldier of the Quarter, SGT Brusseau and SPC Hanson of C 1/147 FA, will compete at the Brigade board. I know they will represent us very well and expect them to win. Good luck to these two Soldiers. I also want to congratulate two Soldiers back at home. SGT Martinez recently won the Leadership Award and SGT Schettino earned Commandant's List honors at the Warrior Leader's Course at Fort Polk. 519TH Soldiers continue to set the standard wherever they are.

We completed our Combat Patch Award Ceremonies. For many of our Soldiers, these events were a right of passage because they finally earned the privilege of wearing a patch permanently on the right shoulder of their uniform. The combat patch recognizes Soldiers for their wartime service and shows everyone that the wearer is someone who has answered the call of freedom and fought bravely for this Nation. The patch is design and the unit's numerical designation are symbolic of the discovery of gold in California, the Brigade's State of origin. The yellow background refers to California's popular nickname, the "Golden State". The red disk denotes the State's sunny climate and alludes to Sutter's Mill, a saw mill located on the American River which is represented by the wavy blue area and is where the first gold nuggets, indicated by the yellow diamond shape, were discovered in 1849.

I must thank every family member and friend of the Vipers. Your love and support are necessary and are the things that keep us going. We miss you and look forward to the day when we return home. God bless you, our Soldiers and the United States of America.

Heroes of the Week
PV2 Esteves 204TH MP Co
SPC Staton 258TH MP Co
SPC Christensen C 1/147 FA
SGT Webly 988TH MP Co
SPC Ernesti C 1/147 FA

Sustainer of the Month SGT Stryker 127 FA VIPER 7
CSM GREEN





VIPER FORWARD

CPT PURSEL SFC (P) McCOLLIN

HHD, TASK FORCE 519TH MILITARY POLICE

February has come and gone, it was a great month. We would like to welcome CPT Charbonneau who joins our team in the S3 shop. At the same time, we bid farewell to 1LT Ottolini who has been chosen to take over a platoon in the 204th MP CO. The 204th is getting a great asset, good luck Steve!. We also would like to congratulate SSG Thomas, SGT Macleod, SPC Beaton, SPC Guzman, and SPC Brooks, These heros are dedicating several more years to the service of their country during a time of war. Congratulations and Thanks! I would also like to recognize the following Soldiers for being the Detachment Hero's of the Week: SPC Flores, SPC Sasota, PFC Ashton, and MSG Dumais as well as SPC Guzman who was the Sustainer of the Month for their dedication to mission accomplishment. Great job everyone! We celebrated Valentines Day using all the great things the FRG and other families sent out to us to enjoy. We even celebrated Mardi Gras by having Gumbo and raffles.



HHD celebrates the February birthdays in conjunction with valentines day.

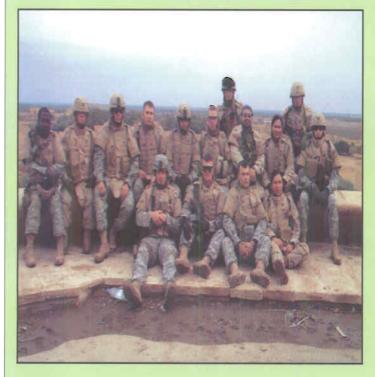
March will bring many new challenges to the table. Task Force is completing our expansion throughout the country which has kept our staff pretty busy. Our Support, Supply, and Motor Pool sections as well as our PSD Squads are pulling long hours as they travel to all of these places to ensure we are doing our part as an HHD to ensure their success. They are doing great.

The weather is getting better, we are moving passed the rainy season and the warm weather is here. This may be the best month in terms of weather we have seen yet.

I want to say thank you to all of the families that have supported the unit by sending various luxury items to us. The Soldiers truly appreciate it. We send our thanks to the great staff of the FRG who are making great things happen everyday. The family involvement seems to be getting better day by day.

Stay safe and ensure you send great care packages to your deployed Soldier, they have slowed down since the Holidays. They raise morale and can turn any day into a great day.

CPT Pursel WARDAWGS!!





FORWARD

C 1/147th is an FA unit based out of Yankton, South Dakota. We are comprised of Soldiers from Eastern South Dakota and Northern Nebraska. We are Commanded by CPT Stiles and our First Sergeant Amends.



Charlie Soldier Talks of Unique Perspective of being attached to 519th MP BN

eing a C/1-147 field artillery Soldier that is attached to the 519th Military Police Battalion as the Battle Captain, I have the luxury that no one else in the battery has: I get to look from the outside in and see the great gain the unit has made since our arrival in theatre. As I write this we are 36 Percent complete with our overseas Tour of Duty and have already accomplished countless tasks. The daily interaction of our Charlie Battery Soldiers with the Iragi Police is helping to create a rule of law environment (and a little Midwest work ethic doesn't hurt either). The stereotype of active duty and national guard Soldiers having animosity towards each other definitely does not play a part in this environment. SGT Brusseau earning honors of 519th MP BN NCO of the Quarter and SPC Hanson being the alternate Soldier of the Quarter, I think Charlie Battery is representing the South Dakota Army National Guard and its standards very well. Various other honors, such as Hero of the Week, have been awarded to Charlie Battery Soldiers for their display of leadership qualities that earns them the right to be as a Battle Captain. called Heroes.



1LT Green is a member of C 1-147 attached to support the 519th MP BN

Charlie Soldier is admitted to Medical School while on deployment



 W hile Charlie Battery was mobilizing this past summer and fall, at Ft. Dix, NJ, training for 18-20 hours per day, many days, SGT Taecker had taken the initiative to prepare himself to take the MCAT. SGT Taecker spent an average of two hours per day, for about 3 months, studying for this exam, squeezing time in whenever he could find it, even if it meant studying during his lunch break out on training missions. In mid-August, SGT Taecker was given the opportunity to travel from Ft. Dix to Connecticut to take the MCAT. The test lasted about 8 hours, with only about 10 minute breaks between test sections and an hour for lunch. At the end of the day, SGT Taecker was drained, but confident that he had done his best and hoped that all of his hard work would be rewarded.

his has been an excellent month for Charlie Battery re-enlistment. The level of commitment and sense of duty on the part of Charlie brings about a level of pride and respect that comes with being part of the guard family. To date, we have had 21 Soldiers re-enlist while here in Iraq, while several more re-enlisted within the last year prior to be mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom. There are several people who also fully intend on reenlistment upon eligibility. Thus far Charlie Battery has maintained over an 80% retention rate for eligible Soldiers. This is a fine example of how Charlie Battery, 1-147 FA leads the way. HOOAH!!!



And I heard a voice say, "Whom shall I

send and who will go for us?" and I said,

"Here am I, send ME!"

~Isaiah 6:8





HHB (FWD) 1-127th Field Artillery WARHAWKS

"Strength and Honor"



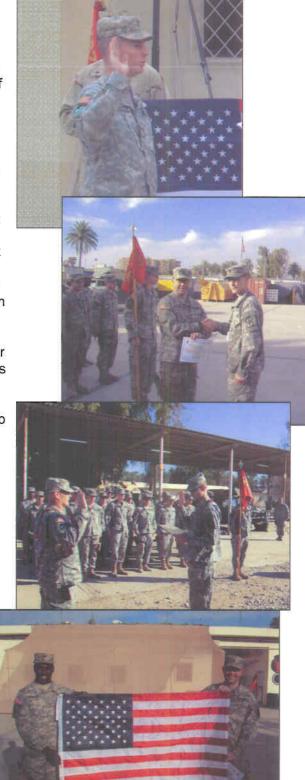


It has been a rather quiet month all in all, but we rather like that over here. Some things that did occur this month were first our Super Bowl Party, with a huge turn out of about ten people. Never the less some stayed up to at least catch a glimpse of the Super Bowl. Many were abashed to find that the world renowned Super Bowl commercials were substituted for AFN good practices commercials, like buckle up and get adequate sleep before driving. We celebrated one other holiday, Mardi Gras. To celebrate this festive occasion 2nd Platoon sponsored a basketball tournament. They also sponsored the referees so you can imagine what platoon won the tournament. Dare I say 2nd Platoon? Yes that would be correct. Thus conspiracy will go down in the depths of 127 history, much like the grassy knoll in Dallas, Texas in 1963. Needless to say all the platoons would agree that the next time the HQ's Platoon gets on the court we will have an ambulance on standby, what with them being 1 foot in the grave and all. Never the less, those attended would agree that it was an enjoyable time.

Another major focus this month was CLS training. We were able to fully qualify 12 more Soldiers in the combat lifesaver ranks. Finally, we have at last began to tap into our most precious resource, our Soldiers, as we have had 7 reenlistments this month. Such a win-win situation for all they get a hefty bonus and we get to retain quality Soldiers helping us build and adapt to the ever changing military structure.

"VIA VI"





988TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY "THUNDERSTRUCK"

The month of February was a busy one for the 988th Military Police Company. As usual, our Soldiers met the challenge head on and set new standards for professionalism and mission accomplishment. The unit is graced with among the finest Soldiers and NCOs in the United States Army Military Police Corps, and you should all be extremely proud of the work they are doing each and every day.

The great work being done by our Soldiers has been apparent to everyone within Task Force (TF) 519 Military Police, and several of our Soldiers have been personally recognized by the TF Commander and TF Command Sergeant Major. The below listed "Thunderstruck" Soldiers represented the company during TF "Hero of the Week " and "Sustainer of the Month".

Hero of the Week

04 February 2006: SGT Montero (1st Platoon) 11 February 2006: PFC Taylor, T. (3rd Platoon) 18 February 2006: SPC Begolka (1st Platoon) 25 February 2006: SGT Webley (4th Platoon)

Sustainer of the Month

SGT Shirley (Headquarters Platoon)



It is hard to believe, but we have reached the point in the deployment where we will begin to send our Soldiers back to the United States for Environmental Leave (EML). This program allows all



forward deployed Soldiers to return home and spend two weeks of leave with their family and loved ones. EML was not available for many of our Soldiers who participated in previous Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) rotations, and is a well deserved opportunity to kick back and relax which all of for Soldiers will take advantage of through the course of the deployment.

In closing, the work being done here in the TF is amazing. Our 988th Military Police Company Soldiers are making history each and every day, ensuring that the future of Iraq and its citizens is bright. The great work being done could not be accomplished without the support you provide us from home station! Thank you, God Bless and God Speed...

THUNDERSTRUCK!

CPT Devitt



BLADERUNNERS



Greetings from the First Sergeant, the month of February came at a fast space and every Bladerunner was up to the challenge. I can't help but tell you how proud I am of each and every Soldier in this unit. My journey as the First Sergeant will come to an end 1 April 2006. We have a great team assembled for one cause and that is to bring each other home safe. Esprit de corps and Morale are at an all time high with PVT Esteves winning Battalion Hero of the Week. Congratulations to the Miller family as they welcome in the birth of a baby girl. We celebrated several birthdays this month with the assistance of SSG Kelly who arranged to have a cake made for each Soldier. PFC B.J. Moore was selected Hero of the Week for the 3rd week of February, for outstanding maintenance support, while SPC Stoddart was selected as Sustainer of the Month for February, working long hours to ensure each Soldiers personnel actions were being processed. We have two newly promoted NCO's for the month of March, SGT Glaze to SSG and SPC Howard to SGT. Congratulations to them all for doing such a great job and making us proud. I want to personally thank the FRG past and present along with the Rear Detachment CDR for all their efforts and support given to each Soldier during these difficult times. We ask you to keep us in your prayers as we will do the same for you.

BLADERUNNER 7

First of all I would like to say hello and hope everyone is doing well. We have had several noteworthy things happen this last month. The most important is welcoming Baby girl Miller into the ROUGHRIDER family. SSG Miller is a proud father. Also PFC Moore was selected as the company Hero of the Week and SPC Stoddart was selected as Sustainer of the month. We are in the middle of another move and are just getting settled into are new homes. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

ROUGHRIDER 7

We here at 1st Plt are looking forward to going into sector and working alongside the IPS. While we are all working all hard helping each other and the local populace, all the Soldiers are looking forward to geeting some much needed R & R in the upcoming months. We all miss home and our families, but are all proud to be here. Helping the Iraqi people has been fulfilling and we all know of the good that will come of this.

WAR PIG 6

Hello from Iraq, in the past 3 months we have made 3 moves. The new PSG SFC Stake is working hard at getting us internet in our rooms, more to follow on that. The IPS we partner with are good at what they do, we are very proud of them and enjoy working with them. I cannot be more proud of both Soldiers. We miss all of you. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

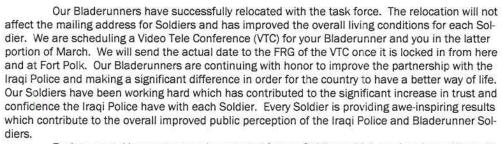
SHADOW WARRIOR

Greetings from Iraq. We have had a busy month, lots to do. We are currently going to IP stations and working with our partnered IPs. Our Soldiers and the IPs are working very hard together and are performing fabulously. We feel as though we are making a difference in this area and are proud of the work we are doing. Everyone is well andOnce again congratulations to SSG Diaz and SSG McDougle for their recent promotions. SSG Diaz brother was able to be at his promotion ceremony which was a great thing. We are all doing well and hope everyone back home is doing well also. We miss you all and have you in our prayers.

ROUGHNECK 6

Greetings Punisher Family from Iraq. Congratulations to SGT Kornoely and PFC Sickle, who celebrated their birthdays this month. The Soldiers continue to impress both myself and Punisher 7 with their professionalism and dedication to helping the Iraqi people and police. The Punishers are extremely grateful for everything our friends and family have done to support us and our mission in Iraq and look forward to the month ahead.

- PUNISHER 6



Environmental Leave program has started for our Soldiers which involves leave time with you and your Soldier during the deployment. We can not thank you enough for all the tremendous support everyone has provided for our Soldiers. Thank you.

Bladerunner 6



"NIGHTHAWKS"

Greetings from Iraq, our new home away from home. Life is much simpler here, quieter even. Every soldier has a two man trailer, a seemingly vast improvement to the 5-6 man rooms we were crowded into at our old location. Many of the guys have bought satellite TV for their rooms. \We have 2 free internet cafes, and a couple phone centers here, so we have adequate ways a contacting our families.

We have many ways of relaxing after a long day here, such as a gym, MWR tent, chow hall, and the occasional USO tour. This month in fact there was a group of stand up comedians performing with the USO tour in the chow hall for every Soldier to attend. Moral is high here, and as always we are getting the job done, and staying positive.

As our Soldiers start coming home for leave, please be patient and allow them time to decompress and adjust back to life at home. In most cases, Soldiers have been gone since August 2005. The Soldiers are doing an outstanding job. They are making a difference for the Iraqi people. Since we have been here, the company has been a part of the Iraqi Elections in December 2005 and will continue to watch Iraqi democratic process evolve.

The PX here is very limited. So, continue to send comfort items to the Soldiers. We will continue to work to improve the living conditions on the Camp. We are currently working to get the Soldiers internet in their living space.

If you or your family encounter any questions or issues at home, please utilize the Red Cross or the local unit. If you cannot resolve your issue or question, please communicate this with your soldier and I will work to answer your question or resolve your issue. As we approach our half way point of the deployment, I hope that

you realize the great work and effort that your soldier is doing. They have definitely made the Indiana Army National Guard proud. God Bless America!

> MAJ Rosenberger Commander



What should I send my Soldier?

The Facilities here are not as nice as the facilities at out old location, so talk to your Soldier and ask what he needs. We also don't get mail here as often so think ahead if you want your soldier to receive something by a certain date.

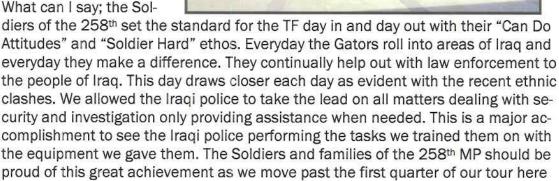
SFC LAMAR

SFC Lamar was chosen for the excellent job he and the rest of the Maintenance Section have done in repairing and upgrading the unit's trucks and safety systems. His staff have received high praise for their courteous and prompt manner in dealing with the squads' vehicles and the various concerns they have raised regarding them. The unit's vehicles receive the attention they need daily and our squads mission needs are met with equipment to spare.

SOLDIER HARD

From the Desk of Gator 7

Hello Gator Family, What can I say; the Sol-



in Iraq.With that said, time here is going by quickly. As we move into the second quarter of the deployment more Soldiers will be going home to enjoy their R&R leave.

I want to personally thank the FRG and all the family members for the support they show on a continuous basis. The Valentines and Birthday gifts have been a big hit with the Soldiers.



HEROES OF THE WEEK

SPC REMBACKI SGT CAMPBELL SPC HARRIS SGT LEWIS, C.

SUSTAINER OF THE MONTH

SPC MARTINEZ

SGT MACMURRY conducts training with the Iraqi Police



From the Desk of Gator 6

Now, looking back at the Company's efforts here over the last four months, I cannot attribute any of the Company's success to any one event or effort. No one achievement of any individual Soldier will ever be able to compare to the total sum of all of our efforts. It is a tremendous thing to watch in action. As far as I'm concerned, being the Commander of this great unit has been the greatest experience of my life. To the spouses and families: It has been my honor and privilege to serve alongside your husband, wife, son, daughter, father, and mothers. I trust in them completely and without reservation and would gladly put my life in their hands. Thank you for trusting me and putting theirs in mine.

To the Soldiers: While in Command, I've tried my best to be a living embodiment of the Army Values: Loyalty to the Company above all else; Duty to the task at hand; Respect towards <u>all</u> Soldiers; Selfless Service to you everyday; Honor the legacy of the 258th MP CO and do nothing to tarnish it's reputation; Integ-

rity so you know I say what I mean, and mean what I say; and the Personal Courage to lead you into combat. I could not have asked for a better group of men and women to be associated with. I am proud to be part of this great unit's legacy, and proud to have served as your Commander. Someone that I respect once told me that Soldiering is an affair of the heart. Over the last year and a half I have kept the 258th MP CO and the business of Soldiering in my heart. It will not be easy to give up.

"GATORS"
"SOLDIER HARD!"
GATOR 6

PROMOTIONS

SPC SEDOTAL
SPC BLACKMON
PFC ASHTON
PFC TROTT
SPC OLSON
SPC PHILLIPS
PFC CASMIR
SPC GRAY



Chaplain's Corner February 2006

Can you believe that it is already the end of February? Where has the time gone? It seems like yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and New Year's. Now we have seen the Ground Hog of Puxatawnee come and go, St. Valentine's Day zoom by (I hope you received something from your loved one this year) and now we have St. Patrick's Day just around the corner. Time flies when you are occupied with things to do, places to go and people to see. That is exactly what your Task Force Chaplain Office has been doing the past month; doing ministry, visiting areas of operations and visiting Soldiers where they live, sleep, eat, work and play. It has been a very busy month for SPC Miller and me and we would not change one thing about it. God has blessed us with a wonderful opportunity to provide ministry and support to the finest Soldiers of today's Army, the Soldiers of Task Force 519 Military Police.

The Task Force Chaplain Office was able to coordinate another visit to the Daughters of Mother Theresa Special Needs Orphanage again this month. The visit was once again a highlight in the lives of our Soldiers who were able to participate. We were also able to bring along a journalist from a newspaper in Atlanta, Georgia as well as our brigade Public Affairs Officer (PAO) in order to help share the story of the orphanage in order to help gather support and meet their needs. It was once again a very moving experience for all of our Soldiers. We look forward to another trip next month.

The month of February also proved to be a month of travel and visitation for us as we visited Soldiers in every area in which they live. From the northern region to the southern area they work and live, we traveled with CSM



Green and the Scorpion 3 PSD Team in order to visit, minister and care for each and every soldier we came in contact with. Our Soldiers are such amazing people. They never stop giving 100% in all they do and they love to have fun. I count it both an honor and a joy to be able to serve alongside these great Vipers!



Spring is coming soon. It is God's nature-based picture of new life. With Spring comes newness, revitalization and recommitment to that which is most important to you and your family. I want to encourage you and your family to look forward to the coming Spring with anticipation and expectation of great things to come. In one sense, Spring is a milestone of the deployment. We are nearly half way done and are that much closer to coming home. In another sense, Spring is a great opportunity to re-energize your faith and rededicate your lives to your God and Creator. Let this coming Spring be the time where you experience new life from God above and the peace and joy He so freely offers you.

God Bless! CH (CPT) Keough